

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Method for decoding a data stream, ~~the data stream~~ containing a first and a second substream, the first substream containing first and second multimedia data packets and the second substream containing control information, wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication of the time when to be presented and are decoded prior to ~~the~~ their indicated presentation time, ~~and wherein the first decoded multimedia data packets are buffered at least until, after a further processing, they can be presented in due time, and the second multimedia data packets are also buffered, wherein~~ the method comprising the steps of:

extracting from the second multimedia data packets either replacing or being appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer;

said control information of the second substream containing first, second and third control data; wherein

the first control data (Length) are suitable for defining the buffer size to be allocated buffer size;

the second control data (LoadMode) are suitable for defining whether the one or more second multimedia data packets are appended to the first multimedia data packets or replace them; to be buffered, and

the third control data (StartLoadTime, StopLoadTime) are suitable for defining one or more multimedia data packets to be buffered a mode for buffering the second multimedia data packets;

allocating, in a buffer, buffer size according to the first control data (Length);

storing the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer; and

storing one or more multimedia data packets according to the second control data in the buffer, wherein depending on the third control data either the second multimedia data packets are appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer, or replace some or all of the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~second~~ third control data (~~LoadMode~~) defines one of a plurality of operation modes, wherein in a first mode buffering of multimedia data packets is performed when the value of the first control data (~~Length~~) changes, and in a second and third mode the ~~third~~ second control data (~~StartLoadTime, StopLoadTime~~) are valid for specifying the multimedia data packets to be buffered, wherein in the second mode the multimedia data packets replace the buffer contents and in the third mode the multimedia data packets are appended to the buffer contents.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 2, wherein the third mode has two variations, wherein in the first variation the buffering of multimedia data packets stops when the buffer is full, and in the second variation previously buffered data may be overwritten when the buffer is full.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the method is utilized in an instance of a processing node and wherein the first control data (~~Length~~) defines the allocated buffer size at node creation time.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein labels are attached to the buffered first and other multimedia data packets, and the packets may be accessed through their respective label.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to the claim 5, wherein a label attached to the buffered data packets contains an index relative to the latest received data packet.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the first substream contains audio data and the second substream contains a description of the presentation.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for decoding a data stream, the data stream containing a first and a second substream, the first substream containing first and

second multimedia data packets and the second substream containing control information, wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication of the time when to be presented and are decoded prior to their indicated presentation time, and wherein the first and second multimedia data packets are buffered, ~~wherein containing~~ comprising

buffering means for said buffering of the first and the second multimedia data packets, ~~wherein the second multimedia data packets may in a first mode replace and in a second mode be appended to the first multimedia data packets;~~

means for extracting from said control information of the second substream first, second and third control data;

means for applying , wherein the first control data (Length) ~~to define the allocated~~ are suitable for defining buffer size to be allocated,;

means for applying the second control data (LoadMode) ~~to define whether the~~ are suitable for defining one or more second multimedia data packets ~~are appended to the first multimedia data packets or replace them; to be buffered, and~~

means for applying the third control data (StartLoadTime, StopLoadTime) ~~to~~ define are suitable for defining a mode for buffering the second a multimedia data packet ~~to be buffered packets;~~

means for allocating, in the buffer, buffer size according to the first control data;

means for storing the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer; and

means for storing one or more multimedia data packets according to the second control data in the buffer, wherein depending on the third control data either the second multimedia data packets are appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer, or replace some or all of the first decoded multimedia data packets in the buffer.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for attaching labels to the buffered multimedia data packets, and means for accessing, retrieving or deleting the packets through their respective label.

10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the data stream is an MPEG-4 compliant data stream.

11. (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein replacing the stored first decoded multimedia packets with the second multimedia data packets further comprises the step of clearing the buffer before storing the second multimedia data packets.

12. (New) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the third control data defines one of a plurality of operation modes, wherein in a first mode buffering of multimedia data packets is performed when the value of the first control data changes, and in a second and third mode the second control data are valid for specifying the multimedia data packets to be buffered, wherein in the second mode the multimedia data packets replace the buffer contents and in the third mode the multimedia data packets are appended to the buffer contents.